floated by the same promoters are getting further funds from Institutions and banks, if so, the action taken so far to discourage the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Banks and financial institutions take action for recovery of dues against Non-performing Assets by various measures including enforcing securities and filling suits.

(c) RBI collects and disseminate information of defaulting borrowers and suit filed accounts among the public sector banks and financial institutions to put them on guard against such defaulters while taking credit decisions. The information circulated by RBI constitute on input in the process of decision making by the banks on the basis of their commercial judgement.

Compassionate Appointments in Indian Overseas Bank

1412. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications are pending for appointment on compassionate grounds and how many appointments were made on compasionate grounds in the Indian Overseas Bank during the last two years 1996 and 1997; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the guidelines laid by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for such cases are followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds during 1996 nad 1997 was 58 and 59 respectively. In addition, 41 applications are pending for want of relevant particulars from the applicants.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Appreciation in Indian Rupee

1413. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as compared to March, 1993, the Indian rupee has appreciated in real and effective terms, by around 14%;

(b) if so, the precise basis for this conclusion; and

(c) what further steps are proposed to be taken to give further boost to strengthen the Indian rupee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) According to the total trade based effective exchange rate indices compiled by the RBI, the Indian rupee shows an appreciation, in real effective exchange rate terms, of 14.4 per cent in January 1998 (latest available) over its value in March 1993.

(b) The total trade based effective exchange rate indices of rupee compiled by the RBI represent the exchange rate of the rupee against the weighted average of currencies of 36 foreign countries, both developed and developing. The weighting procedure is based on India's bilateral total trade (exports plus imports) during 1975 to 1991 with these 36 countries. The nominal effective exchange rate indices (NEER) adjusted for inflation differentials between India and these foreign countries provide the real effective exchange rate indices (REER) of rupee. The appreciation of rupee in REER terms over March 1993 level basically reflects the fact that the rates of inflation in India tended to be higher than the average inflation rates abroad during this period.

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee is market determined. The movements in the nominal exchange rate of the rupee are broadly consistent with the preservation and improvement of India's external competitiveness. The Government has also been taking necessary steps to maintain price stability in the economy.

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की कुरेभार शाखा का कार्यकरण

1414. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या वित्त मंत्री दिनांक 29 जुलाई, 1997 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 702 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की कुरेभार शाखा के कार्यकरण में अभी तक कोई सुधार नहीं हुआ है और ग्राहकों को छोटे-छोटे लेन-देन के लिए 3-4 घंटे तक प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि लेन-देन के लिए वहां पर केवल एक काउंटर काम कर रहा है जबकि ग्राहकों की संख्या लगभग पंद्रह हजार है; और

(ग) ग्राहकों को हो रही अपार असुविधा के संबंध में सरकार कौन-कौन से कदम उठा रही है?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० जनार्दनम): (क) और (ख) भारतीय स्टेट बैंक ने बताया है कि इस समय शाखा में ग्राहकों के लेन-देनों / आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए 6 काउंटरों हैं। ग्राहकों की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए जब भी आवश्यक होता है काउंटरों की संख्या बढ़ा दी जाती है। विभिन्न लेन-देनों को तत्काल पूरा कर दिया जाता है और ग्राहकों को अधिक समय तक प्रतीक्षा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है।

(ग) भारतीय स्टेट बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि शाखा कुशल ग्राहक सेवा दे रही है और शाखा के विरुद्ध कोई शिकायत लम्बित नहीं है। शाखा में परिसर, कूलर का और पीने का ठंडा पानी तथा अन्य

Rules Governing Employees of State Bank of Indore

1415. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of Indore has adopted CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 to govern matters relating to discipline of the employees;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the nomenclature of Rules of discipline etc. that are governing such matters relating to the State Bank of Indore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Shri R. Janarthanam): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In respect of matters relating to discipline, the workmen employees are governed by the provisions contained in various awards and bipartite settlements. Officers are governed by the discipline and appeal provisions contained in State Bank of Indore (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979.

Cases of Industrial Sickness with BIFR

1416. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of cases of industrial sickness filed, cleared and pending with BIFR during 1996-97;

(b) whether BIFR has reviewed industrial sickness industry-wise and State-wise, if so, the details thereof in general and for State of Maharashtra in particular;

(c) whether Government have formulated new strategies and taken fresh policy initiatives to tackle the problem of industrial sickness effectively on the basis of realistic feedback; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?